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# DATAGRAM

## Results of the NRMP for 1984

The number of U.S. graduates (USG) who enrolled in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) in 1984 increased by 577 (3.7 percentage points) from a year ago (1). The increase in the number who enrolled is partially attributable to the decreased number of graduates last year that resulted from a change from a three- to a four-year curriculum in four schools. The number who subsequently withdrew decreased (Table 1), and the number of active applicants increased by 772. The proportion who were unmatched remained at 7.8 percent. Among the other U.S. and Canadian citizens, the number of "fifth pathway" applicants decreased from 447 to 425; 339 participated in the match, and 78 percent were successful, compared with 62 percent of the osteopathic graduates, 50 percent of the physician applicants, and 44 percent of U.S. citizens who were foreign medical graduates.

The number of graduates of foreign medical schools (FMG) who applied increased by 2,655. Of the 10,065 who applied, 2,992 were U.S. citizens; the number of U.S. FMG increased by 47 percentage points, and the number of alien FMG by 32 percentage points. Only 22 percent of alien FMG obtained a position.

The total number of U.S.-Canadian citizens (U.S. graduates, "fifth pathway" students, U.S. FMG, and osteopathic and Canadian graduates) who applied to the match this year increased by 10 percent.

The number of positions offered for the first postgraduate year increased by 505; 433 more were offered in the generalist* specialties than in 1983 (Table 2). The ratio of positions per initially enrolled applicant was 0.6; that of positions per USG and "other" U.S.-Canadian citizen applicant was 0.9; and that per U.S. graduate was 1.14. The ratios for active applicants in the match were, respectively, 0.84, 1.03, and 1.25.

The overall filling of positions increased by 2 percentage points; the filling of positions by U.S. graduates increased by 2 percentage points; and the filling by other applicants remained at 13 percentage points. The most competitive programs were in emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, urology, and diagnostic radiology. The participation of programs

**TABLE 1**

**Participation in the National Resident Matching Program in 1984**

| Category | U.S. Senior Students | | Other U.S. and Canadian Citizens* | | Alien Foreign Graduates | | Total Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| Applicants | 16,130 | 100 | 5,376 | 100 | 7,143 | 100 | 28,649 | 100 |
| Withdrew | 1,389 | 9 | 2,277 | 42 | 2,931 | 41 | 6,597 | 23 |
| Active participants | 14,741 | 91 | 3,099 | 58 | 4,212 | 59 | 22,052 | 77 |
| Matched | 13,588 | 92 | 1,602 | 52 | 922 | 22 | 16,112 | 73 |
| Unmatched | 1,153 | 8 | 1,497 | 48 | 3,290 | 78 | 5,940 | 27 |
| Total | 14,741 | 100 | 3,099 | 100 | 4,212 | 100 | 22,052 | 100 |

* Other U.S. and Canadian citizens include graduating students from U.S. osteopathic schools and Canadian medical schools; physician candidates, that is, earlier U.S. graduates who are seeking an entering position in graduate medical education; "fifth pathway" students, who are U.S. nationals who completed course requirements for a medical degree abroad followed by a year of clinical training in a U.S. hospital under medical school sponsorship; and U.S. foreign medical graduates.

* "Generalist" specialties are defined as family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, and pediatrics.

**TABLE 2**

**Positions Offered and Filled by Specialty and Type of Applicants in the NRMP in 1984**

| Specialties | Positions Offered | | Applicants Matched | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | U.S. Senior Students | | | Other U.S. and Canadian Citizens‡ | | | Alien Foreign Graduates | | | Total Applicants | | |
| | | | | Percent | | | Percent | | | Percent | | | Percent | |
| | No. | Percent* | No. | * | † | No. | * | † | No. | * | † | No. | * | † |
| Family practice | 2,359 | 13 | 1,773 | 13 | 75 | 195 | 12 | 8 | 43 | 5 | 2 | 2,011 | 12 | 85 |
| Internal medicine | 6,579 | 36 | 4,779 | 35 | 73 | 615 | 38 | 9 | 373 | 40 | 6 | 5,767 | 36 | 88 |
| Pediatrics | 1,915 | 10 | 1,271 | 9 | 66 | 188 | 12 | 10 | 224 | 24 | 12 | 1,683 | 10 | 88 |
| Obstetrics/gynecology | 1,014 | 5 | 844 | 6 | 83 | 111 | 7 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 2 | 979 | 6 | 97 |
| Psychiatry | 879 | 5 | 497 | 4 | 57 | 89 | 6 | 10 | 75 | 8 | 9 | 661 | 4 | 75 |
| Medical specialties | 90 | 0 | 56 | 0 | 62 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 64 | 0 | 71 |
| Dermatology | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 83 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 83 |
| Neurology | 59 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 51 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 0 | 61 |
| Ophthalmology | 25 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 84 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 23 | 0 | 92 |
| General surgery | 2,330 | 13 | 1,831 | 13 | 79 | 197 | 12 | 8 | 67 | 7 | 3 | 2,095 | 13 | 90 |
| Surgical specialties | 532 | 3 | 470 | 3 | 88 | 39 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 511 | 3 | 96 |
| Neurosurgery | 35 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 71 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 77 |
| Orthopedics | 334 | 2 | 294 | 2 | 88 | 30 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 325 | 2 | 97 |
| Otolaryngology | 47 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 91 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 96 |
| Urology | 111 | 1 | 103 | 1 | 93 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 109 | 1 | 98 |
| Plastic surgery | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 100 |
| Support specialties | 1,546 | 8 | 1,151 | 8 | 74 | 77 | 5 | 5 | 52 | 6 | 3 | 1,280 | 8 | 83 |
| Anesthesiology | 427 | 2 | 368 | 3 | 86 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 386 | 2 | 90 |
| Emergency medicine | 209 | 1 | 189 | 1 | 90 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 205 | 1 | 98 |
| Pathology | 479 | 3 | 263 | 2 | 55 | 31 | 2 | 6 | 35 | 4 | 7 | 329 | 2 | 69 |
| Physical medicine | 105 | 1 | 65 | 0 | 62 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 74 | 0 | 70 |
| Preventive medicine | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diagnostic radiology | 291 | 2 | 252 | 2 | 87 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 271 | 2 | 93 |
| Therapeutic radiology | 30 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 43 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 47 |
| Nuclear medicine | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 33 |
| Transitional | 1,213 | 7 | 916 | 7 | 76 | 85 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 7 | 5 | 1,061 | 7 | 87 |
| Total | 18,457 | 100 | 13,588 | 100 | 74 | 1,602 | 100 | 8 | 922 | 100 | 5 | 16,112 | 100 | 87 |

* Percent distributions of positions offered and filled among specialties (percentages may not add because of rounding).

† Percent of positions offered in specialty that were filled by applicants.

‡ See Table 1 footnote.

and positions in orthopedic surgery and urology again increased. The decrease of positions in neurological surgery and otorhinolaryngology is attributable to the withdrawal of many programs in order to participate in non-NRMP matches. Only a few programs in nuclear medicine and plastic surgery again participated in the match.

The distribution of matched USG among types of programs decreased slightly in the surgical specialties.

Advanced Student Program (ASP) positions were reintroduced in the NRMP this year. Twenty-three programs offered 55 positions in psychiatry and in the medical, surgical, and support specialties. The number of applications was small, and only two students were matched. Both students were also matched to programs they sought for the first postgraduate year.

For the first time in 1984, couples were not allowed to withdraw from the match to accept positions, and a new paired-choice algorithm was introduced. This change resulted in the participation of 812 individuals as 406 couples; 92 percent of these U.S. students were successfully matched.

Several specialty matches for physician candidates were carried out by the NRMP in 1983. In the summer, 95 programs offered 228 positions for fellowships in respiratory disease; 191 physicians matched to 84 percent of these positions. In the fall, 24 programs offered 47 positions in colon and rectal surgery, of which 83 percent were filled. Late in the fall, 31 programs in emergency medicine offered 200 positions; 98 percent of them were filled with physician applicants. The first specialty match for dermatology is currently in process.

Data that describe the trends in numbers of positions offered and filled by U.S. graduates and other applicants during the past several years are included in one of the NRMP's annual directories (2).

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# NOTE

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